Homes
(Notes from Chapman Collection)

ISLE OF WIGHT LIBRARY
SMITHFIELD BRANCH

the sd swamp, north 32 degrees west, 80 poles to a locust standing in John Munger's line, then by Munger's south west 92 poles to a white oak near ye head of a small gutt, Thence down ye sd gutt south 25 degrees Westerly 60 poles to Hutchinson creek & thence by various courses down ye sd creek & ye cross creek to ye main Pagan creeke, then north east by ye maine creek side 120 poles to ye mouth of sd Taberer's own creeke, then up that creek & Jones hole creek to a locust pole in ye marsh, & then north 58 degs. west, 40 poles to ye first station.

Maj. Tab. left the estate to his gr. son Joseph Copeland.

W & M 7-215

Basse's Choice

B.C. originally called for 300 a but its a was really 400 of which 250 a was marsh land. Mr Peter Knight who may have mar one of Basses dau. pat 150 a of the same in 1640 & 255 in in 1643. It was sit. on the east side of Pag Bay. Peter Knight sold the 400 a to John Bland the eminent London merchant in 1659-60. In 1675 Giles B son of John Bland sold Basses Choice to Maj. Tho Taberer. In a pat to Tab. in 1681 it was described as beginning at ye mouth of Potentines (Pellingtons) swamp which divides ye sd Tab. land from ye land of Mr. James Day. Thence up the sd swamp, wh. divides ye sd Tab land from ye land of Mr James Day, thence up

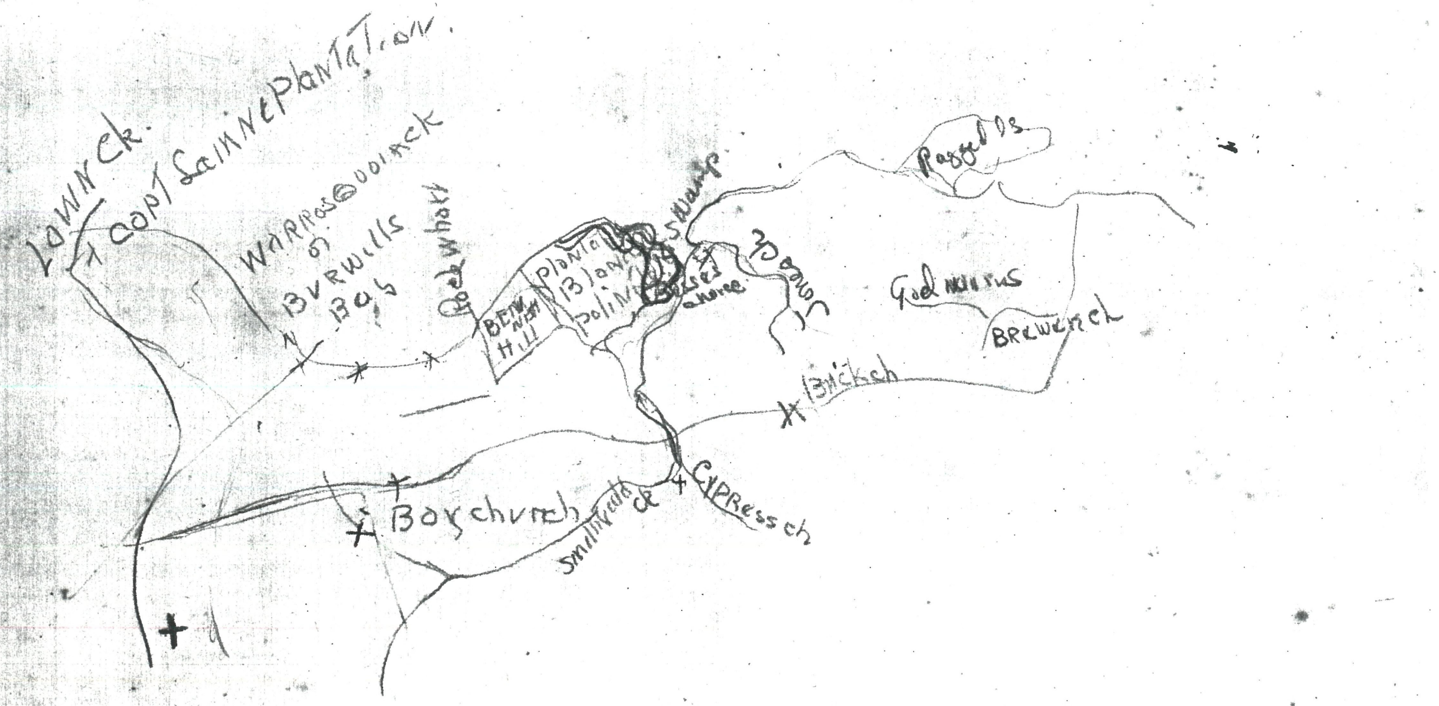
Homes

Wm Evans - son Thomas
all my land at Kingsale
lying 400 a, more or less
1689
W-M-7-245-

Shoal Bay

Henry Baker devised this place
called S.B. from Silvester Hill - He
devised it to his son Lawrence Baker
who sold it to Nathaniel Burwell on
May 24, 1717

W - Mary 7 - 254


Lawn Ck.
Capt Lawne Plantation.
Warrosquoiack or Burwells Bay
Rock Wharf
Ben Nan Hill
Planta Island Point
Swamp
Burwell shore
Jones ck
Ragged Is
God winus
Brewer ch
Brick ch
Boy church
Smithfield ck
Cypress ch

Whitemarsh

Bridger home -
Deed of John Perry
son of Phillip Perry
of ye Whitemarsh
to Col. Joseph B.
1673
W+M Vol 7-224

Col. Bridger's Est.

Mentions chamber over the store, the store goods, upper chamber of the oulde brick house. In the next chamber in the first chamber of the first story, in the next chamber dining room, children's chamber, uppermost chamber of the new house, middle uppermost cham, 3rd chamber over the dining room, the gallery, parlor, hall, lower chamber, kitchen chamber, outer chamber landing - kitchen, cellar - 13 negroes 4 white servants - Total - 816£ - 17s - 04

after 1686

Homes

Tho. Pitt estate - mentions hall & closet, kitchen, entry, parlor, pantry, hall chamber, parlor chamber, porch chamber & upper entry.

W-M-7-246

Homes

Mr. Nicholas Smith - Parlor, hall, Parlor chamber, Hall chamber, porch chamber, over the parlor chamber, over the porch chamber 1694.

W-M-7-249.

Lawnes Plantation

1619	Capt. Christopher Lawne + Ensign Washer
	Pa
1624	Basse's Choice. Capt John Pollington
	war.
1629	Capt. Nath. Basse, Rch. Bennett, Robt Savin + Tho. Jordan
1630	John Upton, John Atkins, Robt Savin + Tho. Burgess
1631	Tho. Jordan
1632	Tho Jordan + Wm. Hutchinson
1633	John Upton + Robt Savin
1634	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	Capt John Upton, Mr. Anthony Jones Mr. John Moore (?) Mr. James Tuke (Tooke)
40	
41	Capt John Upton, Mr. Joseph Salmon, Mr Geo Hardy
42	" " " + Geo. Hardy
43	Mr. Anthony Jones, Mr. Richard Death
44	Mr. Peter Hull, Richard Death, Geo. Hardy
45	Arthur Smith, Geo Hardy Capt Jo. Upton John Seward
46	Geo. Ffawdowne, Mr James Bagnall
47	Capt John Upton; Mr. John George
48	
49	Geo. Hardy, Robert Pitt.

	war.
1629	Capt. Nath. Basse, Rich. Bennett, Robt Savin + Tho. Jordan
1630	John Upton, John Atkins, Robt Savin & Tho. Burgess
1631	4Tho. Jordan
1632	Tho Jordan + Wm. Hutchinson
1633	John Upton + Robt Savin
1634	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	Capt John Upton, Mr. Anthony Jones Mr. John Moore (?) Mr. James Tuke (Tooke)
40	
41.	Capt John Upton, Mr. Joseph Salmon, Mr Geo Hardy
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45	Arthur Smith, Geo Hardy Capt Jo. Upton John Seward
46	Geo. Ffawdowne, Mr James Bagnall
47	Capt John Upton; Mr. John George
48	
49	Geo. Hardy, Robert Pitt.
50	
51	
52	Mr. Cha. Reynolds, Robt. Pitt, Geo. Hardy, John George, John Moore
53	Lt. Col. Robt. Pitt, Maj. Geo. Ffowden, Daniel Boucher
54.	" " " " Capt John Moore, Mr. Fra Hoble, Capt John Bond

55
56 Mr Jos. Beazley (pg 99. Hos B. 1619–1658/9.
57. Maj. John Bond, Tho. Taberer, John Brewer Joseph Bridger
58 " " " " "
59 Col. Robt Pitt, Maj. Richard Hill, Maj. John Bond, Nicholas Smith
60 " " " "
61
62
63 Maj. Nich. Hill. Capt Jo. Bridger, Dr. Robt Wmson.
64
65 Adj. Gen Bridger Maj. Nicholas Hill, Dr. Robt Wmson.
66 " " "
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78
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80 Tho. Taberer – Tho. Pitt,
81
82
83 Col. Arthur Smith + Capt James Powell
84 Lt Joseph Woory Capt. Henry Applewhite
85 Lt. Col. Arthur Smith & Henry Applewhaite
86
87

61

62

63 Maj Nich. Hill. Capt Jo. Bridger. Dr. Robt Wiman.

64

65 Adj. Gen Bridger Maj Nicholas Hill. Dr. Robt Wiman.

66 " " "

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80 Tho. Taberer - Tho. Pitt.

81

82

83 Col. arthur Smith + Capt James Powell

84 St Joseph Woory Capt. Henry applewhite

85 St. Col. arthur Smith & Henry applewhaite

86

87

88 arthur Smith - Henry applewhite

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91	Arthur Smith	Henry Applewhite
92	" "	James Benn
93	Mr. Henry Baker -	Mr. Anthony Holladay
94	" " "	" "
95	John Goodrich	John Giles
96	new writ to fill place of John Goodrich died.	John Giles
97	" " " James Benn	" " "
98	Anthony Holladay.	John Giles
99	"	"
1700		
01	Henry Applewhity -	Thomas Giles
2	Henry Applewhaite -	Thomas Giles
3	Arthur Smith	" "
4	" "	" "
5	Anthony Hollyday -	Samuel Bridger
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	Arthur Smith -	Joseph Godwin
11		
12		
13		
14	Wm Bridger -	Joseph Godwin
15		
16		
17		
18	Wm Bridger	Arthur Smith
19		
20	Wm Bridger	Arthur Smith
21		
22	Wm Bridger	Arthur Smith

96 New will to fill place of John Goodrich dec'd. John Giles
97 " " " James Benn " " "
98 Anthony Holladay - John Giles
99 " " " "
1700
01 Henry applewhity - Thomas Giles
2 Henry Applewhaite - Thomas Giles
3 Arthur Smith " "
4 " " " " "
5 Anthony Hollyday - Samuel Bridger
6
7
8
9
10 Arthur Smith - Joseph Godwin
11
12
13
14 Wm Bridger - Joseph Godwin
15
16
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18 Wm Bridger Arthur Smith
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20 Wm Bridger Arthur Smith
21
22 Wm Bridger Arthur Smith.
23 Henry Applewhait Joseph Godwin.
24
25
26 Henry applewhaite Joseph Godwin.

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36	Joseph Gray – John Simmons
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40	John Simmons
41	
42	John Simmon Joseph Gray
43	
44	John Simmons
45	
46	John Simmons
47	
48	John Simmon
49	
50	John Simmon (died since election) Joseph Gray
51	
52	Robert Burwell, Tho. Gale
53	" " " "
54	" " " "
55	
56	
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35		
36	Joseph Gray – John Simmons	
37		
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40	John Simmons	
41		
42	John Simmon	Joseph Gray
43		
44	John Simmons	
45		
46	John Simmons	
47		
48	John Simmon	
49		
50	John Simmon (died since election)	Joseph Gray
51		
52	Robert Burwell,	Tho. Gale
53	" "	" "
54	" "	" "
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1763		
64		
65		
66	Dolphin Drew -	James Bridger
67		
68	" "	" "
69	Richard Baker,	James Bridger
70		
71		
72	Richard Hardy,	Richard Bridger
73		
74	John Scarchook Wills -	John Day

Old Homes and Families of Nottoway, by William Read Turner, Blackstone, Virginia, 1932. Pages 32, 33 & 34.

POPLAR HILL.

p. 32. Poplar Hill is about two and a half miles from Blackstone on Cocke's Road. This place was called "Batts" when William Irby bought it from Richard Cross in 1792 for his son, Edmund Irby. Edmund Irby built the present house in 1812. The bridge across the Little Nottoway River not far from the house was then called Batt's Bridge, while the one across Big Nottoway River, several miles away, was called Cross's bridge after the Richard Cross who lived there.

p. 33. Edmund Irby married Francis Briggs Lucas, of Greenville County, Virginia. He was a man of means, and a large slave owner. He also kept a goodly string of race horses, and his farm book, with a list of his slaves and race horses, is still extant, being in the hands of his granddaughter.

Edmund Irby was a friend of John Randolph, of Roanoke, who once said of him that he was the best farmer in Virginia. He seemed to have gained the confidence and friendship of this brilliant but erratic statesman to a remarkable degree, and Mr. Randolph was a frequent visitor at Poplar Hill. He used to visit there to attend the races at Bellefonte and perhaps to break his journey to the Hermitage in Amelia County on his way to see the only sweetheart he ever had, the beautiful Maria Ward. She afterwards discarded him to marry his cousin, Peyton Randolph, author of "The Reports of the Court of Appeals of Virginia". In Mr. Randolph's will may be seen the following entry: "I leave to Edmund Irby, of Nottoway, the next choice of my mares or fillies, and any one of my horses or colts to be selected by himself, also my double gun". Edmund Irby did not live to receive the bequest, however, as he died in 1829, four years before Mr. Randolph's death.

At Christmas, in 1831, two years later, from Roanoke Mr. Randolp sent a Bible to the widow of Edmund Irby, and in it the following beauti tribute to his friends at Poplar Hill was written on the fly leaf: "To the respected widow of my departed friend, Edmund Irby, of Nottoway, Es p 34 by one who entertains the sincerest esteem and regard for her character, and who will never cease but with life to feel the deepest interest in the family of a man who was honorably esteemed by all who knew him, and especially by those who were admitted to his friendship and confidence, of which honor the writer of these lines will ever cherish a mournful but proud recollection". At the death of Edmund Irby's widow, Poplar Hill passed to her son, Richard Irby.

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'Good Fame . . . Never Tarnished by Unworthy Action'

Now Abandoned, the Old House of Gen. Isaac Gregory

By Ralph Pool

Just off the main north-and-south highway some four miles south of Camden Courthouse, North Carolina, there stands an old brick house, alone with its memories, brooding over an illustrious past. It's abandoned now. Window panes are broken out, the front door stands listlessly ajar. Floors are cluttered with rubbish.

And yet, amid all the desolation and loneliness, it's easy to shut one's eyes and conjure up something of the earlier, brighter days that this house has known. Brilliant, merry gatherings, silver and cut glass sparkling in candlelight. The lilting tunes of fiddles, and wigged and powdered dandies of two centuries ago, dancing the minuet with their lovely ladies.

In those days, and for many years afterward, this house was the home of Gen. Isaac Gregory, one of North Carolina's most illustrious patriots of the Revolution. It and the surrounding areas still are owned by members of the Gregory family, who, along with other historically minded North Carolinians, treasure the story of the general and his exploits.

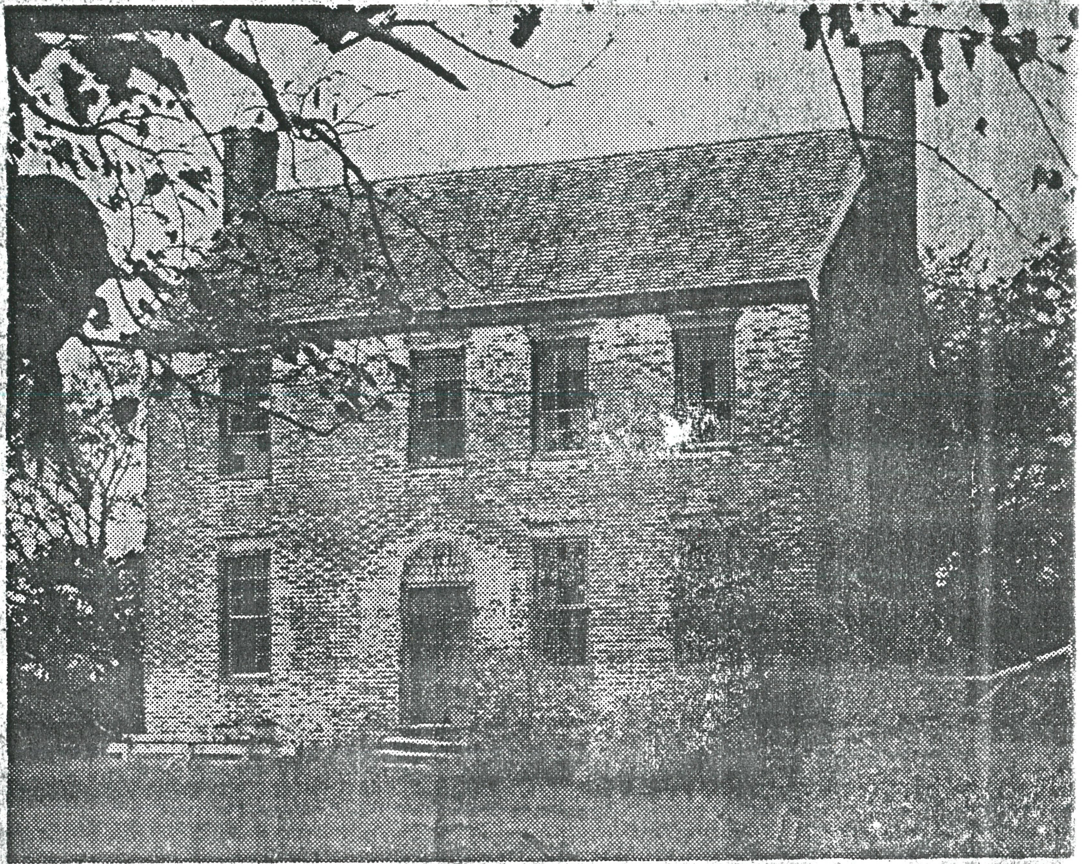
For this account of General Gregory, I am indebted heavily to Catherine Albertson's excellent historical volume, "In Ancient Albemarle." Miss Albertson, herself a daughter of one of North Carolina's most notable families, gives a wealth of fact and tradition relating to these northeastern counties; and none of it is more interesting than her story of the general and his era.

Isaac Gregory's name first appears in the Colonial Records of North Carolina for 1773, when he was selected sheriff of Pasquotank County. In the same year, he was appointed a trustee of St. Martin's Chapel, in Currituck County, at Indian Town, perhaps a dozen miles from where he lived.

In that day, Camden County was a part of Pasquotank. The courthouse was situated on the Pasquotank shore, a few miles south of the present Elizabeth City; but there were no roads linking the two parts of the county, at least in the vicinity of the courthouse, and persons from the eastern district having business at the county seat were compelled to cross Pasquotank River by boat—a bothersome and sometimes dangerous business.

A New County

Therefore, acting on the behalf of residents of what is now Camden County, Joseph Jones, of Pasquotank, presented a petition to the General Assembly in 1777, asking that a new county be erected. The Assembly passed the



Virginian-Pilot Photo by Breon

This old house south of Camden Courthouse, once the home of North Carolina's revolutionary hero, Gen. Isaac Gregory, now stands alone with its memories, brooding over an illustrious past.

the South. Gen. Horatio Gates, who was credited with the important victory of Saratoga, also was sent South and was put in command of the Continental forces.

Meanwhile, in May, 1779, Isaac Gregory had been promoted to brigadier general of the Edenton District, and he was ordered south with his men to help in the new campaign to check the British. By June, 1780, he and his command were with Rutherford's Brigade at Yadkin's Ford, in Rowan County. Near there, the Tories had gathered a force of some 800, and Rutherford hoped, with Gregory's help, to defeat and disperse them. However, the Tories, hearing of the defeat of the Loyalists at Ramseur's Mill, crossed the Yadkin River and joined the forces of General MacArthur, whom Cornwallis had sent to Anson County to rally the Tories.

Disappointed for the moment, the Continentals pressed southward into South Carolina; and by July 31, Gregory and his men, with Rutherford and his brigade, were with General Caswell at The Cheraws, just across the South Carolina line. For several weeks, there was considerable hardship among the patriots because of inadequate food. Though corn was

encamped at South Quay, not far from Norfolk, where he could threaten not only that city, but all Northeastern North Carolina.

To meet the new threat, General Gregory was dispatched to a point near the State line at Great Swamp, near North River; and from there he wrote to Governor Abner Nash, in November, 1780, reporting the repulse of a British attack. He also warned the Governor that the enemy was planning to attack Edenton, and pointed out the blow that the loss of that town would be to the State's commerce.

At that time, General Gregory was in a position not to be envied. He had only about 100 men with whom to oppose Leslie, whose forces, then at Portsmouth, numbered close to 1,000. His little force was inadequately equipped, half naked, and ill fed. To add to his troubles, Colonel Blount, of the Edenton district, tried to have him removed from his command.

A Council of State was called at Camp Norfleet Mills to consider the situation; and after an investigation, it reported that Colonel Blount had, in the first place, resigned of his own free will in favor of Gregory. It decided that he should not now take the command from him.

letter bearing the glad tidings tha the British again had evacuate Portsmouth. As his troops wer no longer needed to guard agains an invasion, and as smallpox ha broken out in his camp, Gregor released his men from duty an they returned to their homes.

The British troops had gone t Yorktown, and there, on Octobe 19, Cornwallis surrendered. How

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the General Assembly in 1777, asking that a new county be erected. The Assembly passed the requisite act, and named the county for Charles Pratt, Earl of Camden, a member of the British Parliament and Chancellor of the Realm, who in 1765 had won the regard of the colonists by working for the repeal of the hated Stamp Act.

Two years earlier, in April, 1775, Isaac Gregory was one of four representatives of Pasquotank County at a convention in New Bern, called by patriot John Harvey in defiance of the royal governor, at which delegates were elected to the forthcoming Continental Congress in Philadelphia, and North Carolina's name was added to the association of the Colonies, formed to take steps to end British oppression.

The following April, another convention, meeting at Halifax, instructed North Carolina's delegates to the next Continental Congress to vote for independence and began preparations for the war that by then appeared inevitable. In response to the convention's call, Pasquotank County raised two regiments of militia; and Isaac Gregory, who had been appointed lieutenant-colonel of Pasquotank Militia by the Convention of 1775, was promoted to colonel and given command of the Second Regiment. Other officers were Dempsey Burgess, lieutenant-colonel, Joshua Campbell, major, and Peter Dauge, second major.

To frame a constitution and set up a government for the State, another convention was called to meet in Halifax in November, 1776. Elected to represent Pasquotank were Gregory, Henry Abbott, Devotion Davis and Dempsey and Lemuel Burgess. By December 18, the convention had completed its work and adopted the Constitution which, with amendments, is still the organic law of the state.

Then came the Revolution. North Carolina troops fought at Brandywine, Germantown, and Stony Point, and weathered the rigorous Winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. They helped in the gallant but futile attempt to drive the British from Savannah; and 5,000 of them took part in the unsuccessful campaign to save Charleston. By May, 1780, most of South Carolina and Georgia was in the hands of the British, and Lord Cornwallis was threatening North Carolina.

Emergency Grave

The emergency was grave. To meet it, the Continental Congress ordered General DeKalb with regulars from Maryland and Delaware to march to the rescue of among the patriots because of inadequate food. Though corn was plentiful, the rivers were so high that the mills could not grind it into meal.

On August 17, General Gates arrived, and took over the command of the army from Caswell; and Gates, having been informed that the British were expecting daily a supply of provisions and other stores for their men, determined to intercept the convoy and seize the supplies. Meanwhile, however, unknown to Gates, Cornwallis with his main army had joined Lord Rawdon, then commanding the British in the area.

All unaware of this development, Gates marched leisurely toward Camden (South Carolina) in the hope of capturing the stores.

Then came the battle. Panic-stricken by the well-organized British attack, the American militia threw down their arms and fled. Gates tried to rally his men, and, failing, himself took fright and fled the field, along with several of his staff officers.

Zenith of Career

It was at this time, in the midst of defeat, that Isaac Gregory reached the zenith of his military career. The story is told by Roger Lamb, a British officer who took part in the Battle of Camden.

"In justice to North Carolina," Lamb wrote, "it must be remarked that General Gregory's brigade acquitted themselves well. They formed on the left of the Continentals, and kept the field while they had a cartridge left. Gregory himself was twice wounded by bayonets in bringing off his men, and many in his brigade had only bayonet wounds."

General Gregory's horse was shot down during the battle, and seeing him fall, Cornwallis was so sure of his death that in his official report listed him among American officers killed on the field.

With the defeat at Camden, North Carolina lay at the mercy of the British; but Cornwallis, apparently not sensing the situation, delayed invading the State for nearly a month and thereby gave the Continentals a priceless opportunity to rally their shattered forces. The North Carolina Board of War began raising money, munitions and men to meet the emergency, and Gregory's brigade received $25,000, along with 150 flints and 15 guns.

Expecting that Cornwallis would quickly subdue North Carolina, and then sweep over Virginia as well, the British high command sent General Leslie from New York to Chesapeake Bay with a considerable force. Leslie

will in favor of Gregory. It decided that he should not now take the command from him.

Made Best of It

Gregory held on, making the best of matters; and by the end of November he was able to write Governor Nash from Northwest, where he was then encamped, that the British had evacuated Portsmouth and departed for parts unknown.

Leslie, it turned out, had sailed to Wilmington, N. C., in the hope of obtaining substantial help from the Tories in that area; and from there he marched to the vicinity of Camden to join another British army.

Thus the immediate threat to Southern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina was lifted—but not for long. Soon, another British army, under the command of the traitor Benedict Arnold, sailed into Chesapeake Bay, and Gregory again was sent to hold the foe in check.

During this campaign, there occurred an episode which, originating as a prank, very nearly cost Gregory his command, and possibly even his life.

One Captain Stevens, a British officer in Arnold's army, while sitting idly by the fire one night, "just as a joke," as he later explained, wrote two notes to General Gregory which he intended later to destroy, as they were purely fictitious and not intended to go out of his hands.

In some way, these papers came into the hands of an American officer who, astounded at their contents, took them to headquarters. They were made public, and for a time, even Gregory's closest friends looked upon him with suspicion and distrust.

The first of the notes read:

"General Gregory:

"Your well-informed plans of delivering into the hands of the British these people in your command, gives me much pleasure. Your next, I hope, will mention place of ambuscade, and manner you wish to fall into my hands."

The second note read:

"General Gregory:

"A Mr. Ventriss was last night made prisoner by three or four of your people. I only wish to inform you that Ventriss could not help doing what he did in helping to destroy the logs. I myself delivered him the order from Colonel Simcox."

Consternation Spread

Consternation spread through Gregory's brigade. Arnold's treason early in 1780 was still fresh in the public mind, and it was natural that many would believe Gregory false to his trust. He was arrested and court-martialed; but his innocence was established quickly, for as soon as Captain Stevens heard of the affair, he made a full explanation of his part in it. Colonel Parker, another British officer, had been told of the writing of the notes, and he corroborated Stevens' account. The brave general was fully exonerated, but was almost heart-broken over the readiness of his fellow officers to believe the fantastic charges.

Gregory went back to his command, and fought several engagements with the British in June, convention, meeting at Halifax, instructed North Carolina's delegates to the next Continental Congress to vote for independence and began preparations for the war that by then appeared inevitable. In response to the convention's call, Pasquotank County raised two regiments of militia; and Isaac Gregory, who had been appointed lieutenant-colonel of Pasquotank Militia by the Convention of 1775, was promoted to colonel and given command of the Second Regiment. Other officers were Dempsey Burgess, lieutenant-colonel, Joshua Campbell, major, and Peter Dauge, second major.

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Where Do We Go From Here?

“To Shoal-Bay-on-the-James for the Crepe Myrtle Festival

Says the Tidewater A. A.

By ANNE FORMAN ELLIS

JULY ends—August begins—flood tide of the year for Tidewater Virginia. Long, warm days with afternoons off for fishing or golfing or swimming. Long, warm evenings with rides to the View to watch the fireworks, or to the Beach for dancing. Corn growing high in the fields, pears and plums hanging heavy on the trees, watermelons and cantaloupes heaped high on the roadside stands. Everywhere the golden tide of summer lapping higher and higher, at garden and truck patch and ripening grain field, cresting and foaming at last in the bloom that is above all others Tidewater Virginia's own, the bloom that holds in its deep richness of hue the warmth and arrogant beauty of summer's self—the Crepe Myrtle.

In March and early April the roads to Washington are thronged with crowds on a pilgrimage to see the cherry blossoms, a little later Charleston holds high festival over Japonica and Camellia, and in May the Valley invites the world to share the beauty of endless acres of delicately-tinted apple blossoms. To each place and season its own beauty, but to Tidewater Virginia in July and early August the glory of the crepe myrtle, ranging its whole gamut of color from white to crimson, with side tones of lavender and orchid and mauve, and its scale of size from the tiny bushes scarcely waist high that yet gallantly flaunt their half-dozen blooms on the newly-planted streets of Norfolk to the centuries-old, giant trees at Shoal-Bay-on-the-James.

This year, for the second time, there will be a special festival in honor of the crepe myrtle at Shoal Bay, to be held Wednesday beginning at 5 p. m. with singing and nature dancing against the lovely natural backdrop of flowers and water there, and followed by supper on the terrace. Many will go from Norfolk and many who can not go in midweek will drive up either the preceding or the following Sunday to admire the magnificent shrubs and to explore the very interesting section that borders the James River above Smithfield.

Motorists from Norfolk will have a choice of two routes, the Norfolk-Portsmouth bridge, King's Highway and Portsmouth-Nansemond bridge; or the ferry, High street and across the Crittenden and Nansemond bridges; or a combinat of the two in the Norfolk-Por bridge, right on Elm aven reet and out High over the two bridges. Any of these ways is good and using one route going and another returning provides an interesting loop.

Old St. Luke's

Just before reaching Smithfield, a church tower rises through the trees to the right of the highway and a detour of a few hundred yards over good clay road will take the motorist past one of the most historic shrines among all the many that dot Tidewater Virginia. This is Old St. Luke's Church, built in 1632, the oldest Protestant church now standing in the United States and as beautiful as it is ancient. Strongly buttressed walls of brick that time has faded to almost the rose-red of the crepe myrtle rise among trees that watched those walls a-building. Within, square pews, high pulpit and stone-flagged floor speak of the times when the great Virginians commemorated in the church's stained-glass windows were living men, and outside old graves, some with quaint inscriptions, crowd sociably about the building. Desecrated and deserted for a time during and following the Civil War, it has now been restored and is ready to give its people for another three hundred years of service.

A couple of miles beyond a concrete bridge and causeway lead into the little town that in spite of its size has made its name known around the world. Foreigners who never heard of Norfolk or Richmond will inquire of Virginia tourists how far they live from Smithfield—a living proof of Emerson's mouse-trap aphorism, for the thing that has placed Smithfield on

beautiful views over the reedy Pagan River, but it is in its hams that the visitor is interested, and whether the hams are superlative because the town's inhabitants are interested in food, or whether the town's inhabitants are interested in hams, certainly Smithfield is unique among small Virginia towns in having three tea rooms or hotels in any one of which a dinner of fried chicken and ham fit for any epicure in the world may be eaten.

Fort Boykin and Mogarts Beach

A couple of miles above Smithfield on Route 10 a side road of fair clay, slightly bumpy, leads first to Fort Boykin and a little beyond to Mogarts Beach. The first named is unique among Virginia estates in that it was originally what its name indicates, a fort. Built in 1812, in the form of a seven-pointed star, its fortifications—said to be the best-preserved example of the period—enclose grass-covered hills, shady dells, gardens which bloom throughout the year and a wild-flower garden such as is to be found nowheere else in this section. Another spot of beauty is the water garden with rustic bridges and many varieties of wild iris, water plants and grasses, and giant trees which include black walnut, mulberry, live oak and tulip poplar have been preserved and enhanced by their setting. The entire place is a monument to the late Herbert Greer who developed it by means of loving care before he passed into the Greater Garden, and is now owned by his widow. It is open to the public on weekdays, free of charge, but with the request that the flowers be respected, but is closed on Sunday.

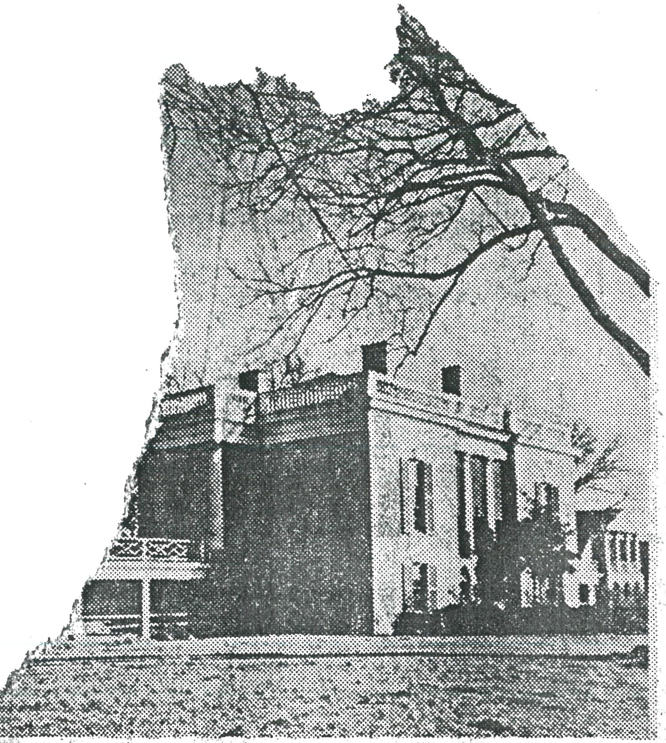
Just beyond Fort Boykin the road runs out along a cliff under shade trees into the little resort of Morgarts Beach. There is a small hotel, bathing, dancing and some amusements and it is a center of summer social life among the younger set of the county, but it is a restful, quiet place, particularly suitable for children, that it will most appeal to Norfolk motorists. The bathing is warm and shallow, there are tables and benches for picnicing or stretches of grass under tall trees where lunch may be spread, and always in front there is the view of the sweeping James.

Shoal-Bay-on-the-James

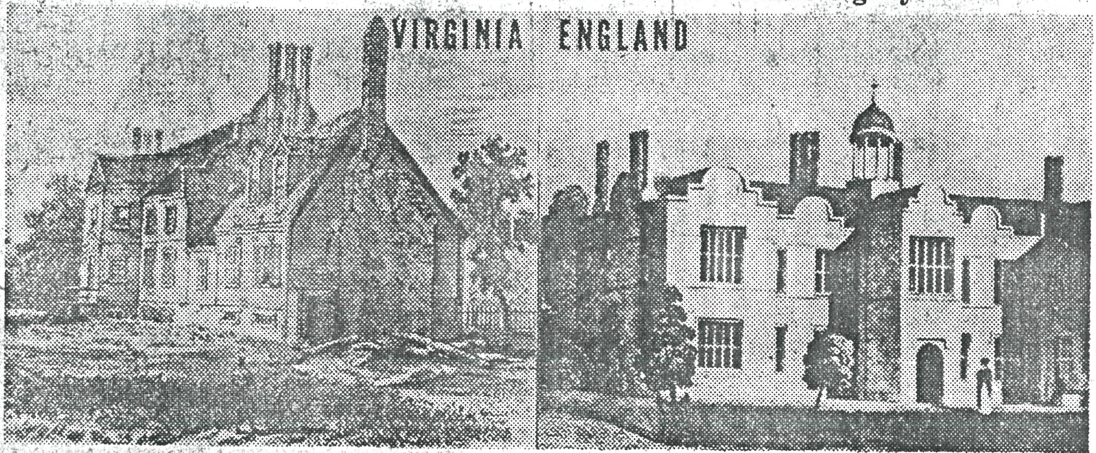
Returning to the highway and driving a mile farther north, we turn right into the private lane into Shoal Bay. It is an old place, this Shoal Bay, home of the first formal gardening in Virginia, and still presenting a magnificent display. The old house, built in 1676 by the Bakers, was destroyed by fire some 30-odd years ago, but the pride of the estate, the giant crepe myrtles and the magnificent old box still remain.

Like most estates of the period, Shoal Bay was laid out to face the river and the approach from the road is through pleasant, shady grounds, under tall trees, with an interesting guest house that was once a Colonial church on the left. On the lawn is a quaint carriage whose once-elegant upholstery, silver door handles and postillion's seat speak of the time when some lovely Isle of Wight County belle rode in state to old St. Luke's Church to create havoc among the young men waiting in the churchyard in immemorial country fashion to see her pass in.

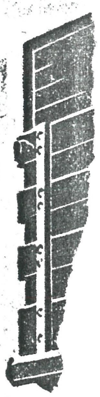
Rounding the house we come out on a lawn framed on either hand by box bushes 15 feet high. Standing under them we can understand the story of the Baker family taking refuge among them when the old house was shelled by a Federal gunboat during the Civil War. Before us the terraces which nearly 300 years ago formed the first formal garden in Virginia drop away to the distant river. After the festival an al fresco supper will be served on these terraces and the reputation of Shoal Bay guarantees that it will be a good one. It is neither box nor terrace, however, that challenges our first



Thoma… a more definite architectural expression for the new-born American … in such houses as this one of 1818 at Bremo, he attained a fresh combination of native materials and classic dignity.



America's first permanent houses were built in imitation of the homes the colonists left behind them in Europe. The designer of seventeenth century 'Bacon's Castle,' in Surry County, Virginia (left), may well have had in mind such a place as the Ford House in Devonshire, England (right).



A Corner for Stamp Collectors

By Tommy Tucker

EVERYTHING is primed for
the three-day meeting of the
Confederate Stamp Alliance in
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will be on display to the public. Some of the prize collections will contain many fine "locals," provisionals, general issues of the Confederacy, prisoner-of-war letters and historical pieces beyond value. The exhibition is under the chairmanship of John Howard and a committee from the Richmond Stamp Club.

Exhibits from the fi…
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being sent to …
Nov…

stamps sold (Washington), 585,-215; (Philatelic Agency), 60…
Total: 1,189,983; covers …
386.064.

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sold, 870,000…
42…

Where Crepe Myrtles Are Full-Fledged Trees

Crepe myrtles, 150 years old, as they appear now in full bloom at Shoal Bay, the first formal garden in Virginia. (Below) The Old Bay Church, built in 1747 at Shoal Bay. It is surrounded by mrytle adn boxwood. (Tidewater Photo Service.)

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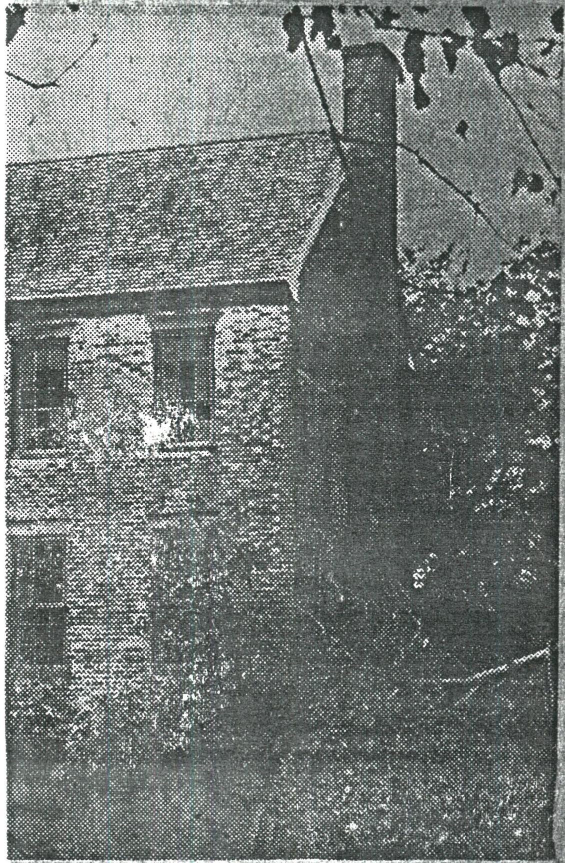
Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Sunday, October 18, 1953

f Gen. Isaac Gregory Has a Timeless Air That Conjures Up His Exploits



Virginian-Pilot Photo by Breon

use, once the home of North Carolina's revo-
stands alone with its memories, brooding over
rious past.

uth Quay, not far
where he could
ly that city, but
North Carolina.
new threat, Gen-
as dispatched to
the State line at
ear North River;
he wrote to Gov-
sh, in November,
the repulse of a
He also warned
at the enemy was
Edenton and

letter bearing the glad tidings that the British again had evacuated Portsmouth. As his troops were no longer needed to guard against an invasion, and as smallpox had broken out in his camp, Gregory released his men from duty and they returned to their homes.

The British troops had gone to Yorktown, and there, on October 19, Cornwallis surrendered. However, that was not the end of the Revolution, as many believe today.

In March, 1782, Gen. Nathaniel Greene sent word from South Carolina that the British had sent four vessels from Charleston — which they still held—to plunder and burn New Bern and Edenton, and the following month, General Gregory was ordered to take 500 men to Edenton for the defense of that town. Also, he was directed to inform Count de Rochambeau, commander of the French fleet that had assisted the Americans in bottling up Cornwallis at Yorktown, as soon as the enemy should appear in Albemarle Sound. Gregory was empowered to buy from the Edenton merchants whatever ships he considered necessary to protect the town, and to buy cannon and draft men for these ships.

However, the expected raid did not materialize. In December, 1782, the British forces in South Carolina, hemmed in at Charleston since the Continental victory at Eutaw Springs, sailed for England, and there was no more war.

Postwar Services

General Gregory's services to North Carolina did not end with the war. Eight times during the years 1778-89, he represented Camden County in the State Senate, serving on major committees and giving his full influence to every movement leading to the welfare and prosperity of the State. Also, he was active in the affairs of his home community. In 1789, the Currituck Seminary was established at Indian Town, and Isaac Gregory and his friend and brother officer, Col. Peter Dauge, were appointed to the board of trustees of the school, which for many years was a leading institution in the Albemarle counties.

General Gregory's home in Camden County—the old brick house that still stands forlorn and neglected—was known as Fairfax Hall. A letter written by James Iredell, famous North Carolina judge, gives an interesting account of an evening spent there, with Parson Pettigrew and Gideon Lamb. Also, in Volume 2 of the Iredell Letters, this description of the general is given:

"A lady who remembers General Gregory well, says that he was a large, fine-looking man. He was exceedingly polite, had a very grand air, and in dress was something of a fop."

Unfortunately there exists, so far as I have been able to learn, no portrait of the general. He was the son of Gen. William Gregory, who fought in the French and Indian War. He married Miss Elizabeth Whedbee and had two children, Sarah and Matilda. Many of the daughters' descendants are still living in the Albemarle counties as well as elsewhere in America.

In his latter years, General Gregory stayed much to himself at Fairfax Hall, especially after the death of his wife. So little was he in contact with the outside world, in fact, that he wrote a formal letter proposing marriage to a lady who had died a full six months earlier.

Tradition says General Gregory was a friend and confidante of General Washington. In his "History of North Carolina," Capt. Samuel A. Ashe says Gregory "was one of the few who won honor at Camden, and whose good fame was never tarnished by a single unworthy action."

Grave Is Marked

The general's grave, near Fairfax Hall, is marked with a simple stone given by the United States government at the request of the Sir Walter Raleigh Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and set up about 40 years ago. At the present time, Betsy Dowdy Chapter, of the D. A. R., in Elizabeth City, of which Mrs. O. F. Gilbert, Jr., is regent, is interested in preserving and restoring Fairfax Hall, and possibly converting it into a museum for relics of the Revolution. However, the chapter, as a member explained frankly the other day, "Just hasn't got the money for it."

Members of the D.A.R. and others interested in North Carolina's past are hopeful, however, that a way may be found to finance such a project. The restoration, it is believed, would not be unduly costly, since the main body of the house appears to be in remarkably good condition, its long years of neglect taken into account. Perhaps, they say, the State of North Carolina may come to the rescue; or some philanthropist may give the necessary funds. After all, homes of valiant soldiers of the Revolution are none too plentiful in this mid-Twentieth Century.

Though long unoccupied, the Gregory house is still in excellent general condition, and will "outwear even now, by another two centuries or more, a modern one," wrote the late Charles M. Griggs, of Elizabeth City, a master cabinetmaker, several years ago, after an inspection of the place.

Maintains Dignity

From the design, materials used, and "superior workmanship," Griggs concluded that the home had been built during the decade 1725 to 1735. Also, he noted that "like well-bred people, shorn of affluence, it still maintains its dignity, in spite of its rundown condition and that of its surrounding property."

Griggs observed further that above the front door was a gaping hole where once was a beautiful fan transom; and he remarked that nearly all the doors were the original ones, and still hinged with the original handmade "H" hinges, though the original locks were long gone.

The window frames, sash and door frames, Griggs observed were all of heart yellow pine, an except for a few sashes which probably were knocked out by thoughtless tenants, were still sound and solid. The stairway to the second floor, he found, was built of heart pine, except the hand rail, which was of native red walnut.

Griggs observed that there was a beautifully paneled wainscoting around the two first-floor rooms and hall and on a level with the window sills, and about 32 to 34 inches from the floor.

The original mantel in what probably was the parlor, Griggs noted, had been replaced by "a homemade monstrosity which boy had made it." However, the looks as though some 10-year-old mantel in what probably was the living room was intact except for some carving and other ornamentation. The mantel, he wrote, was similar to those designed by Samuel McIntyre, with its ornamentation indicative of the type designed during the first quarter of the Eighteenth Century.

"Although the house is built of brick," Griggs added, "it is paradoxical that the woodwork (heart pine) has outworn the brick, especially at the corners and around the windows."

Though it is on a side road now, the house undoubtedly was on a main thoroughfare when it was built, and only a mile or so from the Pasquotank River shore, where a doubtless busy landing enabled those on the Camden side to ferry across to the county courthouse, which then stood at Wingfield, not far south of the present site of Elizabeth City. Like its passengers, the ferry is now long gone, and there remains only the old house, stark and silent, as a reminder of the illustrious ones who lived and were guests there.